

Appl. No. : 09/435,562
Filed : November 8, 1999

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for his thorough review of the present Application. By way of summary, Claims 38-45, 51-98, 101, 106-109, and 129-134 were pending. With the present amendment, Claims 101 and 131-134 are canceled; therefore Claims 38-45, 51-98, 106-109, 129, and 130 remain pending for consideration.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 101 and 107-109 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,928,260 to Chin, et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,258,115 to Dubrul. In addition, Claims 131-134 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,375,612 to Cottonceau, et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,110,243 to Wnenschak, et al. Claims 131-134 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,853,422 to Huebsch in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,961,545 to Lentz, et al.

Applicants traverse the rejections. However, in order to expedite prosecution, Applicants have canceled Claims 101 and 131-134 and have amended Claims 107-109 to depend from Claim 106. Therefore, the present rejection is moot. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the canceled claims and all previous versions of the pending claims in continuation practice.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication of allowablity of Claims 38-45, 51-98, 129, and 130. In addition, the Examiner indicated that Claim 106 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.

Claim 106 has been amended to include all of the limitations of the Claim 101, from which it depends. Since Claim 106 was objected to in the Office Action mailed August 29, 2005, Claim 106 has been amended to include all of the limitations of Claim 101 as it was at the time of the Office Action of August 29, 2005. Claims 107-109 have been amended to depend from Claim 106, and are therefore now allowable as well. In addition, Claims 107-109 are allowable for the unique combination of features recited therein.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. If any issues remain or require further clarification the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicants' attorney at the number indicated below in order to resolve such issues promptly.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: _____

4-26-06

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